

PATENT
 Attorney Docket Number 50047590-0031 (formerly 1331R)
 Harman Ref No.. P99005USU

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 were pending and under consideration. The Examiner withdrew claims 1-5 from consideration as non elected claims. New claims 9-30 are added by this Response "A" such that 15 claims are pending, where claims 6, 9, and 25 are the independent claims. Claims 6-30 now 5 are pending and under consideration.

I. Election/Restriction

The Examiner notes that on June 22, 2001, Applicant's representative elected to prosecute Group II claims 6-8. The Examiner then withdrew Group I claims 1-5 from further consideration.

II. 35 USC 102(b)

10 A. Claims 6-7

The Examiner rejected claims 6-7 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Ritto (U.S. Patent No. 5,519,178).

Ritto does not teach or suggest a peripheral margin of molding material at which the second surface layer is bonded to the first surface layer.

15 The Examiner states that Ritto teaches a sealing core region. However, Ritto does not teach or suggest a sealed core region. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to the claims.

B. Claims 6 and 8

20 The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 8 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Iwata (U.S. Patent No. 4,807,294).

The Iwata Examiner states that Iwata teaches a first surface layer (2) and a second surface layer (2). However, since Iwata teaches at col. 2, line 39 and Fig. 1 that the foam sheet 2 of Iwata

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is only one layer, Iwata does not teach or even suggest a first surface layer (2) and a second surface layer (2). The Examiner states that Iwata teaches a sealing core region. However, Iwata does not teach or suggest a sealed core region. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to the claims.

5 IV. New claims 9-30

Independent claims 9 and 25 recite:

sound damping material disposed in the core so as to be completely encased by the first layer and the second layer

This is not taught by the cited art.

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V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,
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